



NSF's Role in Funding Laboratory Astrophysics



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National Science Foundation

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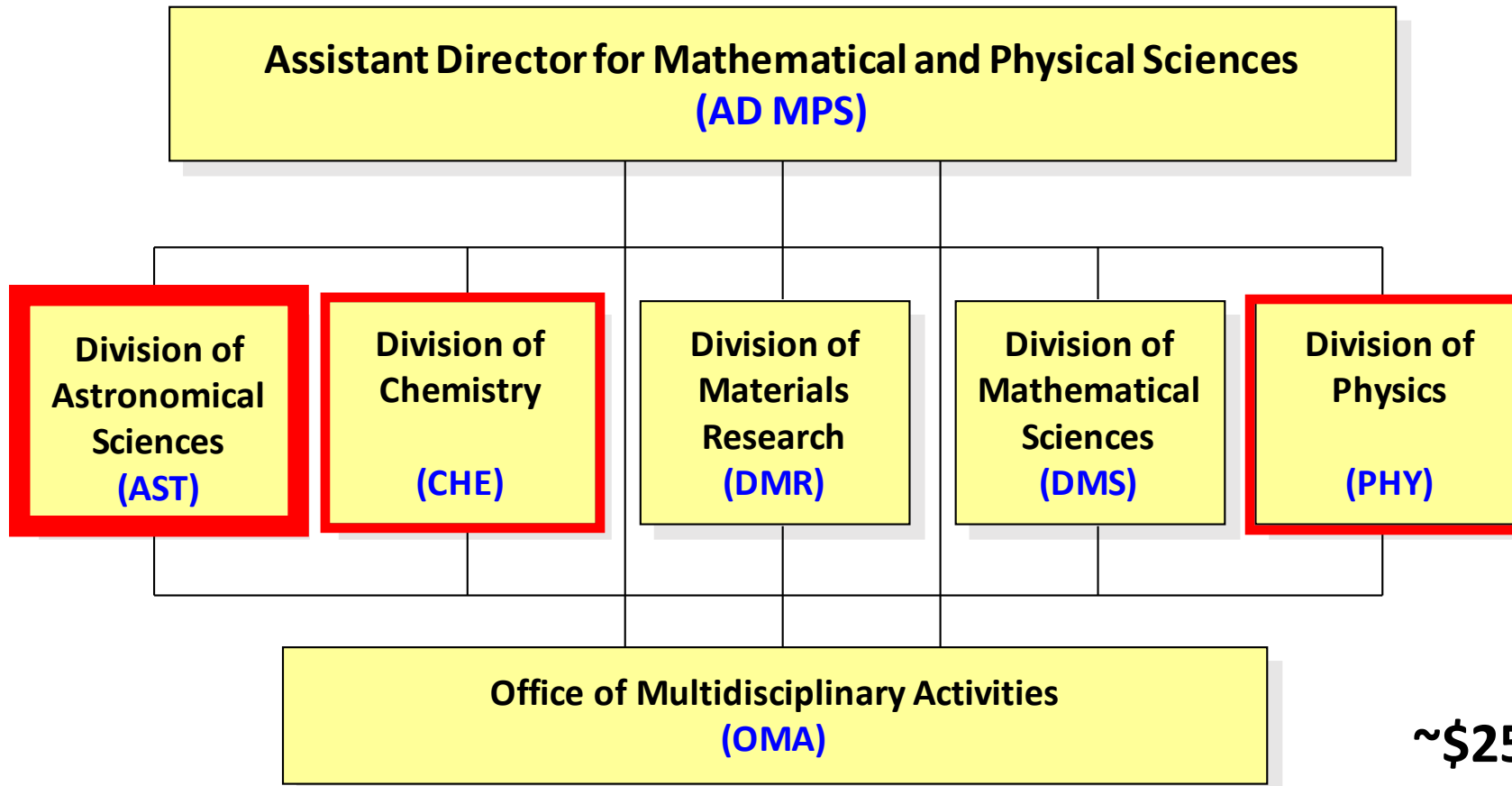
NSF's Mission

*To **promote the progress of science**; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense; and for other purposes.*

--from The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-507)



Mathematical and Physical Sciences



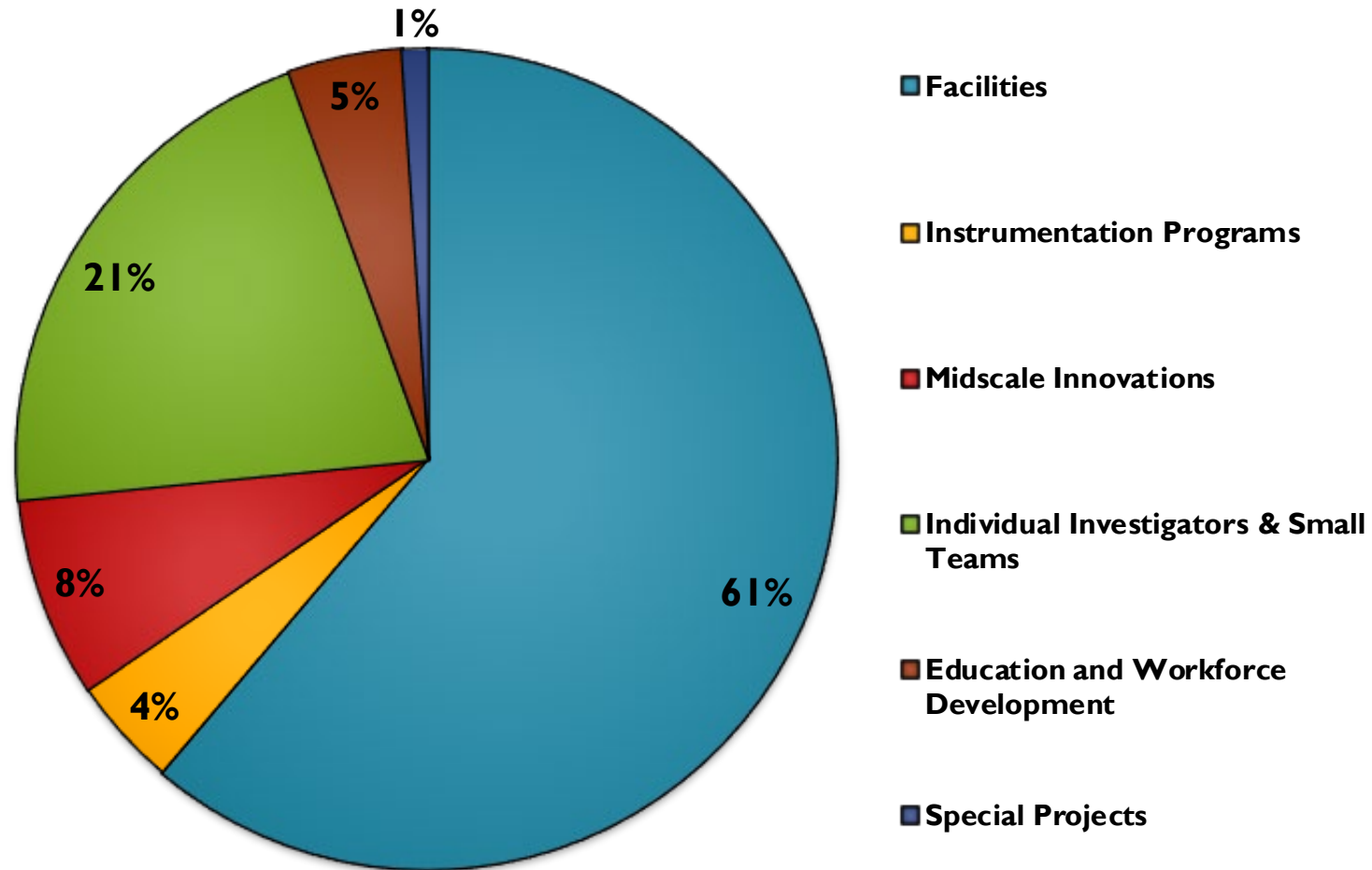
~\$250M - \$300M
per Division

Funding Distribution in AST

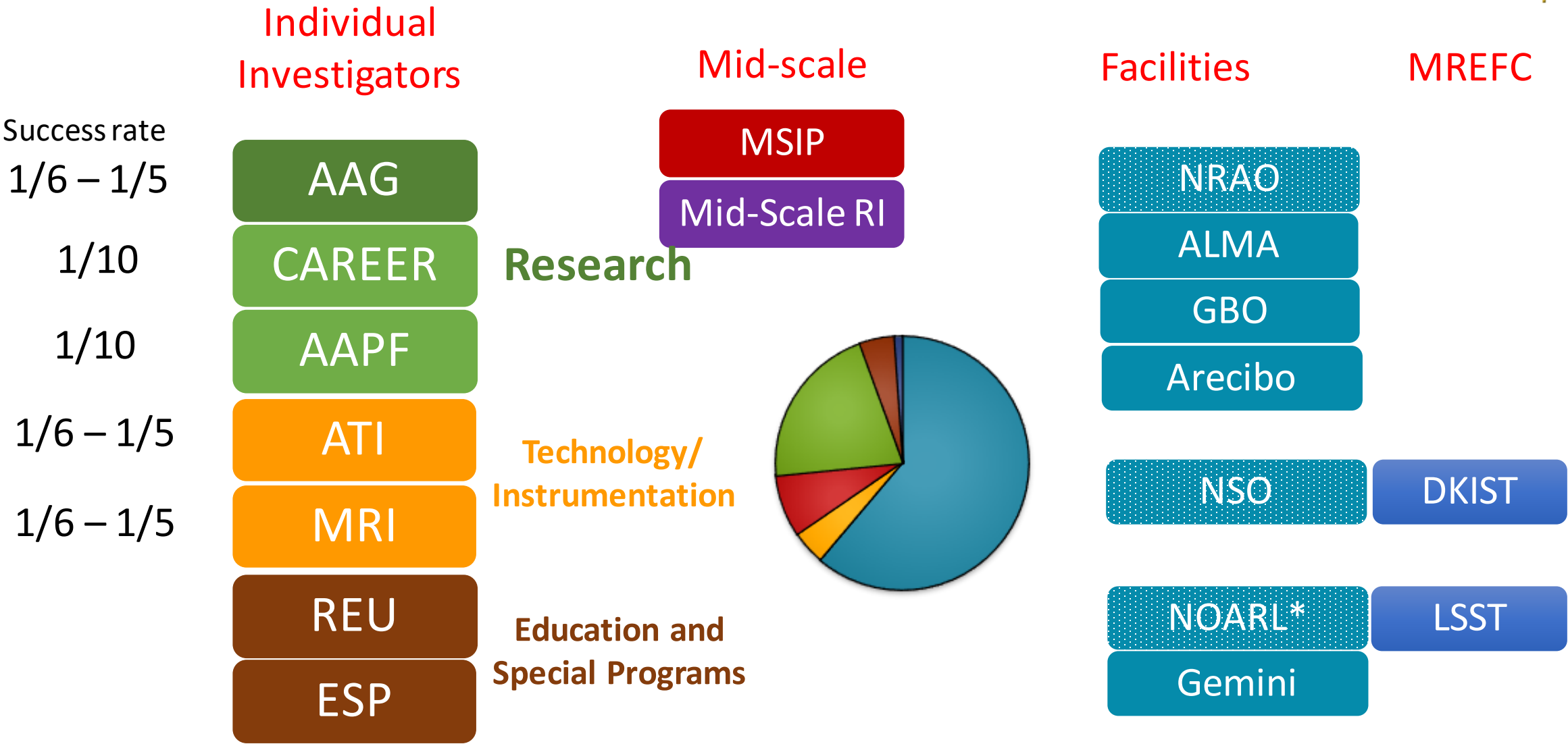


Modes of Support FY2016

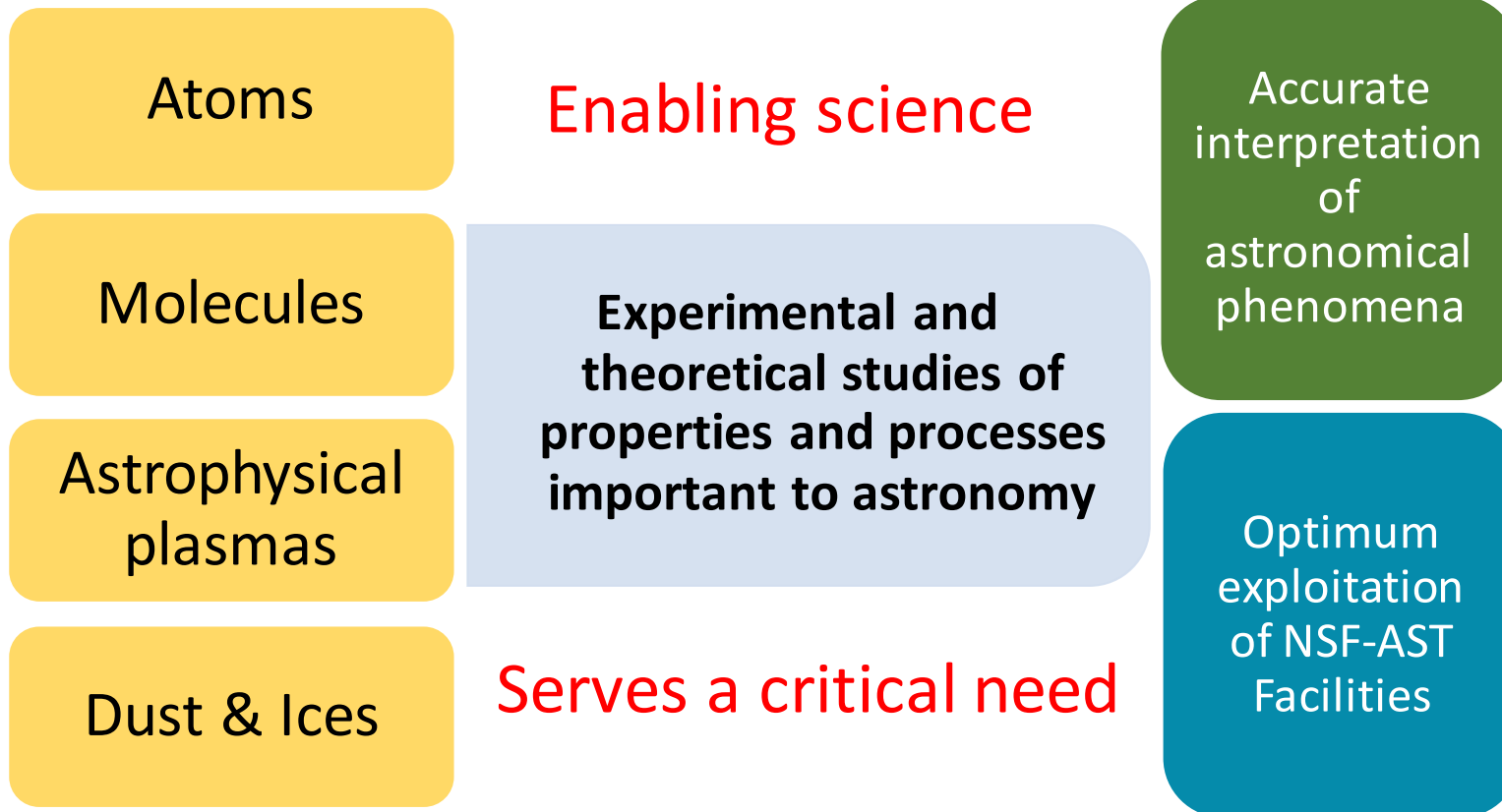
Total ~ \$247M



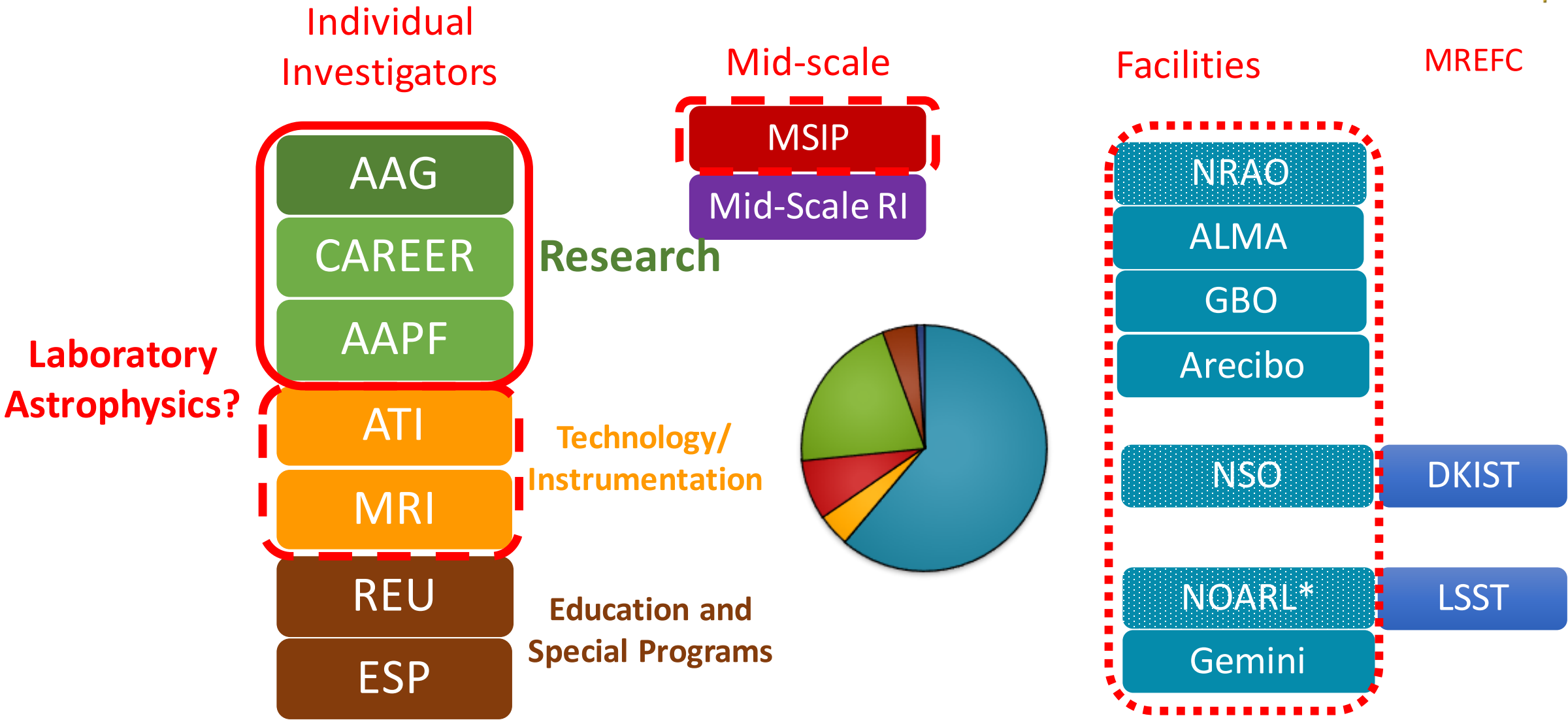
AST Division Programs



Laboratory Astrophysics Portfolio



AST Division Programs



Where does Laboratory Astrophysics fit in?



Within AST's research programs – AAG, CAREER, AAPF – as well as other programs, but:

The astronomical context must be clearly demonstrated.

- AAG reviews 15-25 lab astro projects annually – ~3%-5% of total reviewed
 - Funding commensurate with this level
- Synergy with sister Divisions – co-review and co-funding:
 - PHY: AMO (Theory & Experiment); Plasma Physics (incl. NSF/DOE Partnership in Basic Plasma Science & Engineering)
 - CHE: CSDM-A (Physical Chemistry); CSDM-B (Physical Organic and Inorganic Chemistry)



Summary

- NSF-AST's "mission" is to promote the progress of basic research in astronomy
- Laboratory Astrophysics fits within that mission
- Community establishes research priorities
 - Proposal pressure
 - Needs and interests of astronomy community (e.g., Facilities, WoU:MMA)
- This panel:
 - Identify how agencies and the laboratory astrophysics community could better cooperate to promote the progress of astronomy

